



## TREE weekly update January 15, 2009

*The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.*

### **TREE meetings:**

TREE members met on January 13, at Belle Isle State Park. Eighteen people attended and learned some of the planned activities for the next year, including a possible talk by Jeff Kirwin, tours of Reedville Fishermen's Museum and Omega Protein, and the opportunities for workshops and field trips. Several members volunteered to assist with these programs. It looks like a very exciting year ahead for TREE!

(Thank you to all attendees for your patience during computer problems. They haven't happened since. I'm beginning to believe that when you are nervous or flustered, you send out electrical waves that interfere with computers. That is why they crash and lock up when deadlines are close. Or when you are trying to run a meeting.)

**Next meeting April 21, 11 am, at beautiful Stratford Hall**, 483 Great House Road, Montross VA. We will get a special tour of the mansion, and have a chance to walk the nature trails or go down to find shark's teeth on the fossil beach. Visit their website at [www.stratfordhall.org](http://www.stratfordhall.org)

### **Local Events:**

#### **New Network starting:**

Virginia will be commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Civil War beginning in 2010. Is your organization planning events, displays, or other Civil War themes? Let's get together to discuss joint marketing, coordination of events, and other partnering opportunities. If there is already a group together, let me know. Contact [charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov](mailto:charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov)

#### **Robert E. Lee's Birthday**

Starts: Jan 17, 2009 @ 11:00 AM

Stratford Hall celebrates Robert E. Lee's 202nd Birthday with Mr. Al Stone offering his finely-crafted portrayal of General Lee. At 1:00 p.m. Mr. Stone will give a presentation on Lee's decision to leave the U. S. Army and support his native Virginia. Always popular "Lee for Children" tours will be featured (at 11:30, 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30), along with a Lee Birthday activity sheet and free photos of young visitors with the general. Evergreen Shade will provide musical entertainment in the Visitor Center and refreshments will be served throughout the event. There is free admission for the special activities scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Regular charges for guided Great House tours will apply. More information is available by calling 804-493-8038.

### **Native Plant Walk at Hickory Hollow**

Sat. January 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., we will meet in the parking lot of Hickory Hollow to do our annual skunk cabbage walk. Dress for the weather and bring a friend!

Directions: From Kilmarnock: Go west on State Route 3 toward Lancaster Court House. Watch for Hickory Hollow Nature Trail highway signs. Go right (N) on SR 604 (Regina Road) approximately 1/4 mile to parking on the left.

### **Beekeeper Interest Meeting – January 20, 6:30pm at Wicomico Parish Church**

Virginia Cooperative Extension will hold an interest meeting for current and prospective beekeepers on January 20 at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held in the meeting hall of Wicomico Parish Church, located at 5191 Jessie Ball duPont Memorial Highway (Route 200) in Wicomico Church. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss establishment of a beekeeper's organization for the Northern Neck that could provide a communication link on emerging issues for beekeepers, support beekeeping in the community, and potentially hold a beekeeping class for new beekeepers.

Everyone with an interest in beekeeping, from experienced beekeepers to those wanting to start, is encouraged to attend this meeting. There is no fee to attend, and pre-registration is not required. For more information, contact Extension Agent Matt Lewis at 580-5694, or email Margaret Peill ([maggiep1@rocketmail.com](mailto:maggiep1@rocketmail.com)) or Susan Christopher ([schisto@crosslink.net](mailto:schisto@crosslink.net)).

### **January 29, Winter Warmers at Belle Isle State Park**

#### **Prescribed Burns in Natural Areas**

**Rebecca Wilson**

**Chesapeake Stewardship Specialist/Fire Leader, Department of Conservation and Recreation Department of Natural Heritage**

Rebecca has led over 300 controlled burns in natural areas, including Hughlett Point, Dameron Marsh, and Rappahannock Valley NWP. She will explain why these burnings are necessary and show highlights of recent burns. Rebecca is a TREE member!

### **Winter Plant Identification Workshop**

The Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals (VAWP) and the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia are pleased to offer a Winter Plant Identification Workshop, on Friday, February 6, 2009. Please see the attached flyer for agenda and registration details.

### **Other Events:**

#### **Dig It! The Secrets of Soil Educator Workshop – January 24, 2009**

This is a preK – 8 educator workshop about how soils impact our everyday life. Contact Imad Aoun at (202) 463-2754 or [iaoun@forestfoundation.org](mailto:iaoun@forestfoundation.org) or go to the website: <http://forces.si.edu/soils/index.html>

### **Join CBF for the Rally for Clean Water**

January 26th, Richmond

Make sure everyone knows that residents from across the Commonwealth of Virginia with varying interests and backgrounds all support clean water. Join us in the effort to make sure we protect our rivers, our streams and the Chesapeake Bay. **For more information - [click here](#)**

### **PLT Facilitator Training**

January 28th-29th, New Kent Forestry Center

Virginia Project Learning Tree will hold our next Basic Facilitator Training on Jan. 28-29, 2009 at the New Kent Forestry Center. This training will enable you to lead Project Learning Tree workshops for the PLT PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide and Energy & Society Kits. The prerequisite for this training is previous participation in a full-day PLT PreK-8 Educator Workshop. You can view a list of workshops scheduled between now and Jan. 28 on the Calendar of Events at [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)

### **Nonprofit Leadership Conference**

February 6th, Norfolk Waterside Marriott

The 2009 Hampton Roads Institute for Nonprofit Leadership Conference will be held on Friday, February 6 at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. Why travel to get to a high caliber conference when national speakers will be brought to you? Topics will include board development, fundraising, nonprofit management and marketing/technology.

**For more information - [click here](#)**

### **Register now to be part of the Great American Cleanup**

Keep America Beautiful (KAB) is promoting the annual Great American Cleanup which runs from March 1 – May 31, 2009. Anyone can organize a cleanup and register with KAB. For more information, go to:

<http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=gaclanding>

### **Flora of Virginia Update**

You are invited to visit the new and updated Flora of Virginia Project website that has been under revision, updating and reconstruction of the format for the past year.

Now, it is ready for you to visit to learn of progress, changes. The new pages are attractive and informative. <http://www.floraofvirginia.org/>

Meet all of the Flora staff and see some of the illustrations by Lara Gastinger and Michael Terry (Poaceae) who is also the Flora of Virginia Project webmaster.

### **Free Tools and Information:**

#### **Making Waves**

NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) Communications and Education Division has launched a weekly podcast, Making Waves. The podcasts highlights current activities, recent discoveries, and other happenings around NOS and will be launched each Friday. The website also offers links from each episode, along with downloadable transcripts of the podcasts.

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/podcast.html>

### **Year of Science**

The Year of Science 2009 website offers many reasons to celebrate science, from astronomy to zoology, supporting public understanding of the process and nature of science in an exploration of how we know what we know. Monthly celebrations include weather and climate, biodiversity and conservation, and more. For June's Ocean and Water theme, the website will feature a slide show entitled A Day Without the Ocean. They are collecting digital images (photos or scanned drawings) from the ocean education community, scientists, teachers, students, and anyone else interested, that illustrate what the world would be like if we lost this vital resource for a day.

<http://www.yearofscience2009.org/>

### **Nature's Partners: Pollinators, Plants, and You**

Nature's Partners is a new inquiry learning-based curriculum for young people in the 3rd through the 6th grade. Each of its seven modules offers three or four activities designed to engage young people in active, investigative science following a learning cycle of exploration, concept introduction/development, and concept application. The activities are appropriate for the formal classroom or for a nonformal education setting and can easily be adapted to fit the needs of the students and the teaching situation. [Learn more](#)

### **Map Shows Human Toll of Climate Change**

The Center for American Progress has just created a new interactive map on the human toll of climate change. This map provides scientific information on a variety of climate change threats, compiled from multiple sources, and plots this information geographically to show areas of concern. Contributions of scientific research to the database are invited. Just click on "Add a Point" and follow the directions provided.

<http://maps.scienceprogress.org/climate/index.php>

### **New Study Examines Museum Public Financing**

[Institute of Museum and Library Services: \*Exhibiting Public Value: Government Funding for Museums in the United States\*](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has recently released, *Exhibiting Public Value: Government Funding for Museums in the United States*, a study that provides the first major review of public financing for the museum sector. The report examines public support from federal, state, and local government sources, focusing particular attention on levels of financial support and types of delivery mechanisms. This is one of the few studies to examine U.S. museums as a sector separate from other cultural institutions. Visit the website listed above to download a copy of the report.

### **Beach Chair Scientist**

The purpose of this website and blog is to bring a simplified perspective to the questions one might have while relaxing on the beach. <http://www.beachchairscientist.com/>

### **Popular Mechanics Magazine Debunks Five Myths about Recycling**

Go to <http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/earth/4290631.html> to read the article.

Editors Note: The following is not a curriculum tool, but it is free. The song is about the development in Northern Virginia and the loss of rural spaces. I thought some of you might enjoy it.

An order of Franciscan Sisters who are active in environmental concerns is featuring Virginia singer-songwriter Andrew McKnight this month on their 'Franciscanized World' page. They are offering a free download of his song 'Cedars', a moving meditation on the development occurring in Virginia. Accompanied by Shanna Franklin's Rhode Island photo "The Journey" as the Image of the Month.  
<http://www.fscs-calledtobe.org/living/index.php/2...>

## **Grants:**

**A note about grants: Some of the grants are for schools, but your organization could partner with a school for these grants. Grant givers love partners!**

### **Funds for Grassroots Women's Projects**

#### [Open Meadows Foundation](#)

The Open Meadows Foundation supports projects nationwide that are led by and benefit women and girls, particularly those from vulnerable communities. Specifically, the Foundation supports projects that are designed and implemented by women and girls; reflect the diversity of the community served by the project; promote building community power; and encourage racial, social, economic, and environmental justice. Priority is given to organizations that have limited financial access or have encountered obstacles in their search for funding. The Foundation provides grants of up to \$2,000 to cover start-up expenses or to support ongoing projects. The first application deadline for 2009 is February 15. Funding guidelines and application instructions are available on the Foundation's website.

#### [National Endowment for the Humanities: Summer Seminars and Institutes](#)

This program supports national faculty development programs in the humanities for K-12 and higher education teachers.

#### [Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention: National Mentoring Programs](#)

This program supports the enhancement of initiatives that will provide mentoring services to high-risk populations that are underserved due to location, shortage of mentors, special physical or mental challenges of the targeted population, or other situations identified by the community in need of mentoring services

## **Jobs**

### **Nature Summer Camp Teachers**

Audubon Naturalist Society

Location: Leesburg, VA

Deadline: 4-6-2009

[View details >>](#)

**Nature Summer Camp Internship**

Audubon Naturalist Society

Location: Leesburg, VA

Deadline: 4-6-2009

[View details >>](#)

**Environmental Educator**

James River Association

Location: Richmond, VA

Deadline: 2-6-2009

[View details >>](#)

**Director, Information Technology**

National Wildlife Federation

Location: Reston, VA

Deadline: 4-9-2009

[View details >>](#)

**Green Jobs National Conference**

*February 4th-6th, Washington DC*

The 2009 Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference offers a wide variety of workshops that will allow participants to explore new ideas and exchange best practices, focusing on how solutions to environmental challenges can be used to drive economic development and create successful and profitable businesses. **For more information - [click here](#)**

**Volunteer Opportunity:**

The Wildbunch Refuge in Warsaw is looking for wildlife rehabilitators and educators (training provided), and for people to help repair and clean the buildings (power washers provided). Diana O'Connor, the resident rehabilitator, a senior citizen with artificial knees and shoulders, rehabilitated over 760 animals last year, mostly by herself. The list includes raccoons, opossums, rabbits, bats, raptors, songbirds, waterfowl, and squirrels. Presently she has owls and hawks, but expects lots of babies and injuries in the coming months. Contact Diana at (804) 313-2240, or (804) 450-6331

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to [charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov](mailto:charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov)

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Not currently on the mailing list but want to be included on future TREE mailings? Contact [jtritz@vt.edu](mailto:jtritz@vt.edu)

We need a name for these mailings. E-mail your suggestions to [charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov](mailto:charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov)